

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR GLORIA MOLINA

June 16, 2009

Cigarette smoking is the leading cause of preventable death in the United States, accounting for an estimated 435,000 deaths each year. In Los Angeles County alone, tobacco plays a role in 1 out of every 7 deaths. Approximately \$4.3 billion dollars are lost due to smoking-related diseases and deaths each year. After a decade of steady decline, the prevalence of smoking recently increased from 13.8 percent in 2005 to 14.3 percent in 2007.

Tobacco also has a tremendous fiscal impact on the State of California. Smoking costs state taxpayers an estimated \$4 billion every year in hospital care costs for current and former smokers. SB 600, authored by State Senator Alex Padilla, would raise the state tobacco tax by \$1.50 per pack. The measure would generate approximately \$1.2 billion in new revenue the first year for the State's General Fund, tobacco control programs and lung cancer research. However, the California Legislature should also explore other revenue enhancement options in addition to the proposed massive budget cuts which will have an enormous impact on the County.

MOTION

Molina	_____
Ridley-Thomas	_____
Yaroslavsky	_____
Antonovich	_____
Knabe	_____

California's current tobacco tax rate ranks 30th among all states, and has not been increased since the implementation of Proposition 99 in 1998. Studies show that raising the tobacco tax will reduce youth smoking. For every 10 percent increase in the cost of a pack of cigarettes, there is a 7 percent decline in youth smoking. An increase in the tobacco tax will save lives, prevent youth from starting to smoke, encourage smokers to quit and lower health care costs from tobacco-related diseases. SB 600 is co-sponsored by the American Cancer Society, the American Heart Association, the American Lung Association and the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids.

I, THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS instruct the Chief Executive Officer to send a five-signature letter to Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and to State Senator Elaine Alquist, Chair of the Senate Health Committee, expressing Los Angeles County's support of Senate Bill 600.